

City of Seattle: Solid Waste at a Glance - 1999

Recycling Rates

From 1988 to 1999, the total amount of waste generated (landfilled and recycled), has risen 30% from 650,000 tons to 843,000 tons while population grew by 5% and jobs by 50% over the same period. Tons disposed have increased by 3% from 465,000 to 477,400. The overall recycling rate rose sharply from 28% in 1988 to just over 40% in 1991. Since then it has risen slowly up to 43% as estimated for 1999.

The easiest gains have already been made and the more difficult work is ahead of us if we are going to achieve our goal of 60% recycling. Overall, paper and food are the largest categories of recyclable or compostable material remaining in the

Sector	Tons Disposed	Recycling Rate
Residential	147,718	50%
Commercial	225,348	43%
Self Haul	104,367	18%
TOTAL	477,433	43%

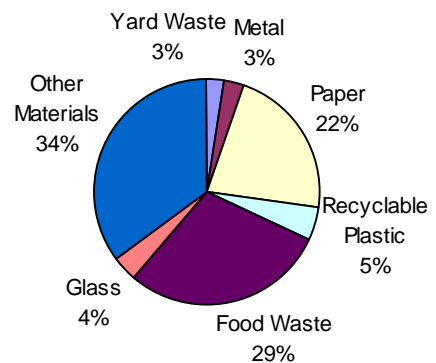
compostable material remaining in the garbage (see next section). There is still some room to improve in multi-family recycling -- while 60% of single-family waste is recycled, 30% of multi-family waste is recycled. As illustrated in the table above, there is also considerable room to improve recovery in the self haul waste stream.

What's Left in the Garbage?

As shown in the graph to the right, the largest categories of waste remaining in the **residential** garbage are recyclable paper and food: 22% or 32,500 tons of paper was thrown away in 1999 and 29% or 43,000 tons of food waste.

The same is true for the **commercial** waste stream, composed of about 34% paper or 77,000 tons and 22% food waste or 50,000 tons. The **self haul** waste stream, on the other hand, is predominantly wood and construction debris. Wood is 29% or 30,200 tons and construction debris is 19% or 20,000 tons

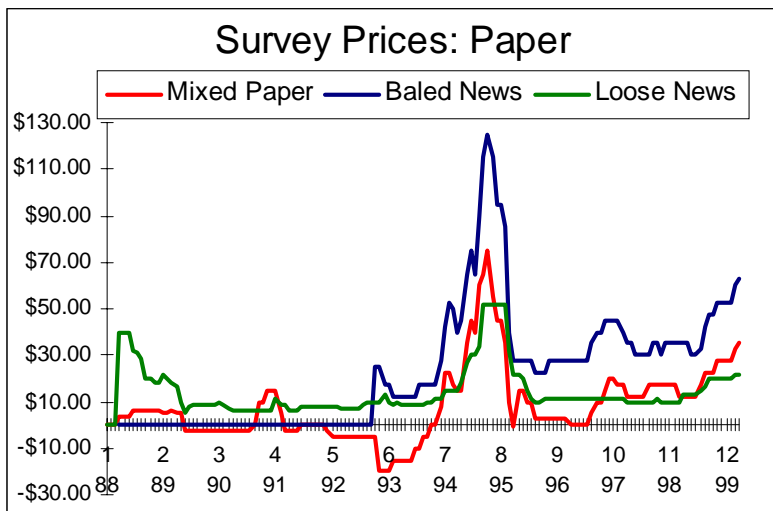
What's Left in Residential Garbage?



Other Materials includes non-recyclable paper, plastic, glass, and metal. It also includes diapers, kitty litter, textiles, and construction wastes.

Market Prices

Prices for key recyclable materials rose steadily in 1999 but are still below the record highs seen in 1995



In January of this year, the price for mixed paper was \$12.50 per ton. By December mixed paper was selling for \$27.50 per ton. Newspaper saw a similar increase beginning the year at \$35.00 per ton and ending at \$52.50. Aluminum also ended the year quite strong at \$1,160 per ton. Glass markets remain low but steady. The only material that performed poorly is tin. The tin and steel food can markets have been variable since the local processor closed. Tin prices dipped to -\$13.00 per ton but ended the year at +\$13.00.

Savings from Recycling

City of Seattle recycling programs saved rate payers \$12.1million from 1988 to 1999.

Status of Programs

Curbside Recycling: 63,033 tons were collected in 1999 -- that's a 5% increase from 1998. This is a healthy increase for a mature program. Payments to contractors rose from about \$45 per ton in 1988 to \$60 per ton in 1992. Payments sharply increased to a high of almost \$100 per ton in 1993. This was due to a combined effect of higher prices when contracts were renewed and poor market prices. In 1995, the average payment per ton dropped to a low of \$50 per ton due to extraordinary market prices. Payments to the contracts remained steady between 1996 and 1999 at around \$85 per ton.

1999 Average payment: \$86.39 per ton for collection and processing.

Apartment Recycling: 10,624 tons were collected in 1999 -- that's 4% higher than in 1998. 58% of the buildings are signed up for recycling service. The units in those buildings account for 69% of the multi-family households in the city.

1999 Average cost: \$117 per ton for collection and processing.

Yard Waste: 53,429 tons of Seattle yard waste were composted at Cedar Grove in 1999. 75% or 39,737 tons of this was collected at the curb. 13,692 was self hauled to City Recycling and Disposal Stations. 58% of accounts are signed up for curbside yard waste collection.

1999 Average cost: \$94 per ton for curbside yard waste collection and processing.

Garbage: 477,433 tons of garbage were sent to the landfill in 1999 -- that's 5% higher than in 1998. 147,433 tons of this were from the residential sector. Of residential customers on can service, 4% are signed up for the micro can, 25% for the mini can, 63% for one can, and 8% are signed up for two or more cans.

1999 Average cost: \$ 81 per ton for residential garbage collection.

Commonly Quoted Current 2000 Rates

- Transfer station, railhead and dumpster rates increased December 31, 1999.
- The rate charged at the Union Pacific rail yard is \$63.95 per ton.
- Our contract price with Waste Management for rail haul and disposal is \$44.46 per ton through 3/31/2001.
- Residential dumpster service is \$87.60 (+\$.60 per unit) for a one cubic yard container collected once a week. (This is the most common dumpster service level.)

Monthly Curbside Collection Rates		Transfer Station Rates			
Micro Can (12 gal)	\$10.05		Garbage	Yard Waste	Wood Waste
Mini Can (19 gal)	\$12.35	Trucks (per on)	\$96.25	\$70.60	\$49.40
One Can (32 gal)	\$16.10	Cars (per vehicle)	\$13.35	\$11.05	\$11.05
Two Cans (64 gal)	\$32.20				
Each Additional Can	\$16.10	Loads with Appliances only are charged \$15.70 per appliance or \$5.55 per appliance plus the per ton rate if brought with other materials.			
Extra Garbage (per bag)	\$5.00				
Yard Waste (4 per collect)	\$4.25				
Extra Yard Waste (per bag)	\$1.50				